



Office of Data System Management, Special Education
Annual Report on First Steps Infants Identified through
the Newborn Hearing Screening Program
February 2015

Purpose

Under the Newborn Hearing Screening law, RSMo 191.931, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education shall “monitor the delivery of early intervention services to those infants identified by the newborn hearing screening program and report annually to the department of health and senior services.” Eligible infants are served by the Missouri First Steps Program under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

This report provides information related to the number of First Steps infants born in 2013 and identified with permanent hearing loss through the newborn hearing screening program.

Infants Enrolled in the First Steps Program

As of January 14, 2015, 91 infants born in 2013 were identified with hearing loss by the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS). It is important to note that the 91 infants included infants who received incomplete results or unknown types of loss based on what was reported to DHSS. Infants who were determined to be suffering from middle ear pathology (e.g., fluid in the middle ear from colds, ear infections) and who do not have a permanent hearing loss could be removed from the list at a later date based on updates received from audiologists.

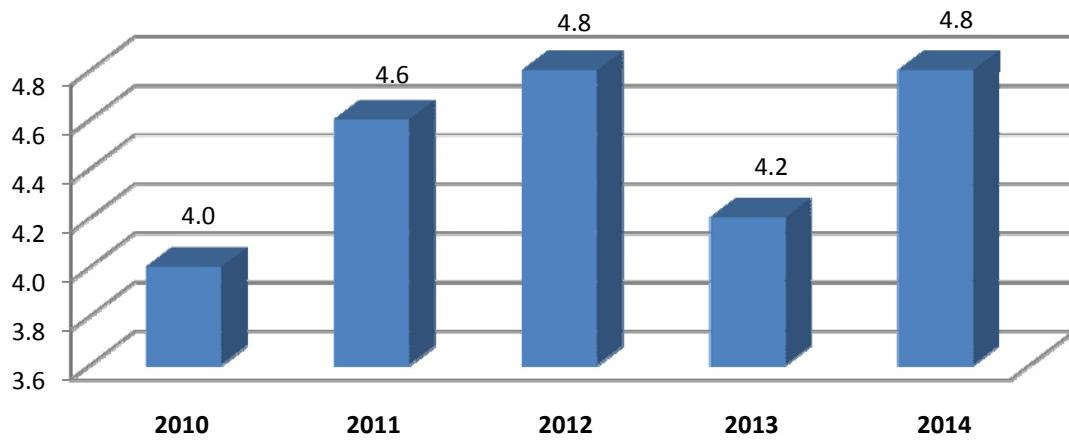
Of the 91 infants identified by DHSS, 86 (94.5%) were found in the First Steps database. Of the 86 infants in First Steps, 76 (88.4%) were found eligible and reached the status of an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). The remaining 10 infants who did not reach IFSP status due to the following reasons: six children were unable to locate, three children were withdrawn by a parent or guardian and one child was not eligible.

Of the 76 infants who reached IFSP status, 65 (85.5%) were in active status at the end of 2014, and 11 had been inactivated as follows: six children moved out of state, three were unable to contact or locate, and two were withdrawn by a parent or guardian.

Average Age

Table 1 represents the average age of infants at the time of enrollment in First Steps for the 86 children referred to First Steps. The National Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) goal regarding Part C of IDEA is to have infants enrolled by six months of age. The average age for infants enrolled in First Steps in 2014 was 4.8 months, which exceeds the goal. Additionally, as shown below in Table 1, the average age has been below six months for the past five years.

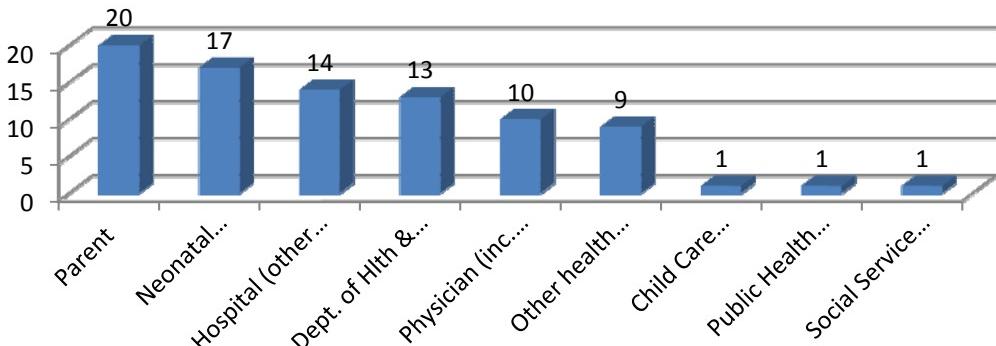
Table 1: Average Age of Infants Enrolled



Referral Sources

Table 2 represents the sources of First Steps referrals for infants with hearing loss identified by DHSS. Of the 86 infants referred to First Steps, most referrals were made by a Parent with 20 (23.3%), followed closely by Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) with 17 (19.8%).

Table 2: First Steps Referral Sources



Type of Hearing Loss

Table 3 represents the type of hearing loss, and related First Steps referral and eligibility percentages, for the 91 infants identified by DHSS. Of the 91 infants, 57 (62.6%) were found to have a sensorineural hearing loss. Of the 57 infants with sensorineural hearing loss, 54 (94.7%) were referred to First Steps and 49 (90.7%) reached IFSP.

Table 3: Type of Hearing Loss and First Steps Status

Type of Loss	Infants Identified by NHS in 2013	Referred to FS	Reached IFSP	% Served
Sensorineural	→ 57	54	49	90.7%
Auditory Neuropathy	→ 3	3	3	100.0%
Mixed	→ 7	6	4	66.6%
Permanent Conductive	→ 7	7	7	100.0%
Incomplete Testing and/or Unknown Type	→ 17	16	13	81.3%
Total	→ 91	86	76	88.4%

Service Authorizations

Table 4 represents the First Steps service authorizations for the 65 infants identified by DHSS who received services from the First Steps program. At the end of calendar year 2014, there were a total of 171 active authorizations for the 65 infants with hearing loss. The top three categories of First Steps service authorizations were:

- 1) 62 (36.3%) authorizations for Special Instruction;
- 2) 48 (28.1%) authorizations for Audiology; and
- 3) 31 (18.1%) authorizations for Physical Therapy.

Table 4: 2014 First Steps Authorizations

	AT Service	Consultation/ Facilitation with Others	Direct Child Service	Evaluation/ Assessment	Family Education/ Training/Support	OAE limited: Evoked otoacoustic	Tympanometry (impedance testing)	Visual Reinforcement Audiometer	Grand Total	Percentage
Audiology	6	12	9	3		6	5	7	48	28.1%
Occupational Therapy		4	16						20	11.7%
Physical Therapy		4	27						31	18.1%
Special Instruction		15	45		2				62	36.3%
Speech Language Pathology		2	18						20	11.7%
Grand Total	4	29	115	3	2	6	5	7	171	100.0%

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, or disability in its programs and activities. Inquiries related to Department programs and to the location of services, activities, and facilities that are accessible by persons with disabilities may be directed to the Jefferson State Office Building, Office of the General Counsel, Coordinator – Civil Rights Compliance (Title VI/Title IX/504/ADA/Age Act), 6th Floor, 205 Jefferson Street, P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480; telephone number 573-526-4757 or TTY 800-735-2966; fax number 573-522-4883; email civilrights@dese.mo.gov.